

We claim:

1. A method of indicating a position of a steerable wheel of a vehicle comprising:
providing a wheel position indicator having an on state and an off state, the wheel position indicator providing a visual indication of the position of the steerable wheel when the wheel position indicator is in the on state, the wheel position indicator not providing a visual indication of the position of the steerable wheel when the wheel position indicator is in the off state;
placing the wheel position indicator into the on state when the vehicle is in a predetermined driving condition; and
placing the wheel position indicator into the off state when the vehicle is not in the predetermined driving condition.
2. The method of indicating the position of the steerable wheel of the vehicle of claim 1, wherein:
the predetermined driving condition is an off road driving condition.
3. The method of indicating the position of the steerable wheel of the vehicle of claim 1, wherein:
the predetermined driving condition occurs when the steerable wheel has a slip angle above or equal to a predetermined amount.
4. The method of indicating the position of the steerable wheel of the vehicle of claim 1, wherein:
the visual indication of the position of the steerable wheel includes a display mechanically connected to a steering column of the vehicle.
5. The method of indicating the position of the steerable wheel of the vehicle of claim 1, further including:
determining a position of the steering column.

6. The method of indicating the position of the steerable wheel of the vehicle of claim 1, wherein:

the visual indication includes a digital display.

7. The method of indicating the position of the steerable wheel of the vehicle of claim 1, wherein:

the position of the steerable wheel includes an angle of the steerable wheel relative to a longitudinal axis of the vehicle.

8. The method of indicating the position of the steerable wheel of the vehicle of claim 1, wherein:

the position of the steerable wheel includes a left or a right position of the steerable wheel relative to a longitudinal axis of the vehicle.

9. A wheel position indication system for a vehicle, comprising:

a steerable wheel;

a wheel position indicator having an on state and an off state, the wheel position indicator providing a visual indication of the position of the steerable wheel when the wheel position indicator is in the on state, the wheel position indicator not providing a visual indication of the position of the steerable wheel when the wheel position indicator is in the off state;

a controller selectively altering the wheel position indicator between the on state and the off state;

wherein the controller places the wheel position indicator into the on state when the vehicle is in an off road condition and places the wheel position indicator into the off state when the vehicle is not in the off road condition.

10. The wheel position indication system for the vehicle of claim 9, wherein:

the visual indication of the position of the steerable wheel includes a display mechanically connected to a steering column of the vehicle.

11. The wheel position indication system for the vehicle of claim 9, further including:
a shutter wheel having apertures adjacent a periphery of the shutter wheel, the shutter wheel being adapted to be connected to a steering column;
wherein the controller communicates with sensors reading light emitted through the apertures of the shutter wheel to determine the position of the steerable wheel.
12. The wheel position indication system for the vehicle of claim 9, wherein:
the visual indication includes a digital display.
13. The wheel position indication system for the vehicle of claim 9, wherein:
the position of the steerable wheel includes an angle of the steerable wheel relative to a longitudinal axis of the vehicle.
14. The wheel position indication system for the vehicle of claim 9, wherein:
the position of the steerable wheel includes a left or a right position of the steerable wheel relative to a longitudinal axis of the vehicle.
15. A wheel position indication system for a vehicle, comprising:
a steerable wheel;
a wheel position indicator having an on state and an off state, the wheel position indicator providing a visual indication of the position of the steerable wheel when the wheel position indicator is in the on state, the wheel position indicator not providing a visual indication of the position of the steerable wheel when the wheel position indicator is in the off state;
a controller selectively altering the wheel position indicator between the on state and the off state;
wherein the controller places the wheel position indicator into the on state when the steerable wheel has a slip angle above or equal to a predetermined amount and places the

wheel position indicator into the off state when the steerable wheel has a slip angle below the predetermined amount.

16. The wheel position indication system for the vehicle of claim 15, wherein:
the visual indication of the position of the steerable wheel includes a display mechanically connected to a steering column of the vehicle.
17. The wheel position indication system for the vehicle of claim 15, further including:
a shutter wheel having apertures adjacent a periphery of the shutter wheel, the shutter wheel being adapted to be connected to a steering column;
wherein the controller communicates with sensors reading light emitted through the apertures of the shutter wheel to determine the position of the steerable wheel.
18. The wheel position indication system for the vehicle of claim 15, wherein:
the visual indication includes a digital display.
19. The wheel position indication system for the vehicle of claim 15, wherein:
the position of the steerable wheel includes an angle of the steerable wheel relative to a longitudinal axis of the vehicle.
20. The wheel position indication system for the vehicle of claim 15, wherein:
the position of the steerable wheel includes a left or a right position of the steerable wheel relative to a longitudinal axis of the vehicle.